

11. *Necrodes littoralis*, Linn.

Necrodes littoralis, Linn. Fn. Suec. p. 450.

Is not common in Japan.

12. *Necrodes nigricornis*, Harold.

Necrodes nigricornis, Harold, Deutsche Abhandl. nat. Ver. Bremen, 1875, p. 286.

This is one of the commonest of the Japanese Coleoptera, and occurs both inland and on the coast.

The descriptions of *Silpha sylvatica*, *subrufa*, and *nigropunctata* are given in the 'Entomologist,' Oct. 1887.

[Note.—*Eudæmonius*, *suprà* p. 72, must be changed to *Eutriplax*, as the first name has been used in Lepidoptera.]

XLV.—On the so-called *Microdon nuchalis*, Dixon, from the Chalk of Sussex, a new Species of *Platax*. By A. SMITH WOODWARD, F.G.S., F.Z.S., of the British Museum (Natural History).

IN his well-known work on 'The Geology and Fossils of Sussex' (p. 369, pl. xxxii. fig. 7) Mr. Frederic Dixon figured and briefly noticed a small deep-bodied fish from the Chalk of Washington, Sussex, which he referred to the Pycnodont *Microdon*, and considered to represent a new species of that genus, named *M. nuchalis*. The paragraph and figure were reprinted, without comment, in the revised edition of the work in 1878, and, so far as I am aware, the determination has hitherto been accepted as correct.

The original specimen, however, is now preserved, with Mr. Dixon's other fossils, in the British Museum, and a recent study of its characters has shown that it is in no respects allied to the Pycnodontidæ, but rather belongs to a truly Teleostean genus. The fossil is too fragmentary to allow of any very precise determination, but sufficient is preserved to indicate approximately its affinities; and as it evidently represents a family hitherto undetected in the English Chalk, I propose briefly to enumerate the most important of its structural features.

The specimen is shown of the natural size in Mr. Dixon's figure already quoted, though the details unfortunately are but slightly marked. It comprises a large portion of the crushed head, the pectoral and pelvic arches, the abdominal portion of the vertebral column, with some remains of dorsal interspinous bones, and a fragment of the caudal region. None of the sutures between the bones of the head can be distinguished, but part of the supraoccipital is conspicuous, from its being extended upwards in the form of a strong, laterally compressed, triangular crest. The facial profile is very steep and the orbit is relatively large. The remains of two or three branchiostegal rays are recognizable, and possibly also the bases of some minute hollow teeth in the jaws. The vertebræ, with their arches, are well ossified, and there are apparently ten in the abdominal region, while all but six of the caudal have been destroyed. The centra are much broken, so that it seems impossible to determine their exact form and characters. As in the skull, the elements of the pectoral arch are undistinguishable, and these are somewhat displaced backwards, both the so-called "pelvic" bones and the first interhæmal of the anal fin being crushed together with them. Of the pectoral fins no fragments remain; but each of the pelvic fins is represented by a single robust spine, all the soft rays, if ever present, having disappeared. The three small spines in advance of the anal fin are also preserved; and above the vertebral column, behind the supraoccipital crest, are a number of large, broad, interspinous bones, evidently testifying to the original presence of a very high dorsal fin. There are no traces of scales, which must thus have been either very delicate or absent.

Such being the only characters shown by the fossil, it is obviously impossible to determine its exact position in the Teleostean series by a reference to ordinary systematic diagnoses. A careful comparison, however, with known types can leave no doubt that the Chalk species is an ally of the existing Carangidæ, and must thus be placed in this family or among the less differentiated forms, ancestral to the Carangidæ, which flourished in the later Mesozoic seas. So far as preserved, indeed, the fossil is almost identical with certain more perfect specimens from the Upper Chalk of Mount Lebanon, which have been referred, with much probability of correctness, to the still-surviving genus *Platax**. The only

* F. J. Pictet, 'Poissons Fossiles du Mont Liban,' 1850, p. 19, pl. ii. fig. 1; F. J. Pictet and A. Humbert, 'Nouv. Rech. Poiss. Foss. M. Liban,' 1866, p. 48, pl. iv. figs. 1-3; J. W. Davis, "On the Fossil Fishes of the Chalk of Mount Lebanon," Trans. Roy. Dublin Soc. [2] vol. iii. (1887), p. 524, pl. xxv. fig. 4.

essential differences appear to be due to imperfections in preservation; the facial profile at first sight seems sharply bent opposite the orbit, but this appearance is really due to a detached bone-fragment; the difference in the lower jaw is similarly owing to breakage, and so likewise is the deceptive appearance of elongation in the vertebral centra. The fish must thus be known by the provisional name of *Platax nuchalis*, until the discovery of more satisfactory specimens renders it possible to clearly define the species.

It may also be interesting to point out, in connexion with this subject, that another Cretaceous fish, truly Teleostean so far as can be judged from the figure and description, has been doubtfully referred to the Pycnodont *Microdon*. This is a small fossil from Mount Lebanon, made known by Mr. James W. Davis under the name of *Microdon? pulchellus* *.

XLVI.—*List of Reptiles and Batrachians from Cyprus.*

By G. A. BOULENGER.

AT the request of Dr. Günther I herewith give a list of the Reptiles collected by Dr. Guillemard in Cyprus for Lord Lilford, and presented by the latter to the British Museum.

All the species enumerated were previously known to occur in Cyprus †. Fortunately there is one specimen of the rare *Acanthodactylus Schreiberi* in the collection. The species peculiar to the island are marked with an asterisk.

LIZARDS.

1. *Agama stellio*, L.

*2. *Acanthodactylus Schreiberi*, Blgr. (*A. Boskianus*, Gthr., *A. Savignyi*, Bttg.)

*3. *Ophiops Schlueteri*, Bttg. (*O. elegans*, Gthr.).

Two female specimens, both with 42 scales round the body. Femoral pores 13–14 and 14–14.

* J. W. Davis, *loc. cit.* p. 501, pl. xxiv. fig. 3.

† Cf. Günther, P. Z. S. 1879, p. 741, and Böttger, Ber. Senck. Ges. 1879–80, p. 132.